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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,177	12/03/2001	Akiko Baba	2001_1765A	6220

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EXAMINER	
TABATABAI, ABOLFAZL	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2625	

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/998,177	BABA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Abolfazl Tabatabai	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 December 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *December 3, 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/4/02*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 1-4,7 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chenal et al (U S 6,447,454 B1) in view of Marume (U S 6,289,075 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Chenal discloses an image display control system having a display unit, said image display control system comprising:

means for displaying a plurality of first thumbnail images of a plurality of radiographic images and a plurality of second thumbnail images of a plurality of

temporally processed images on a screen of the display unit while the first and second thumbnail images are tabulated to form a matrix image (fig. 1 element 480; column 4, lines 7-12 and column 8, lines 51-59);

means for selecting a plurality of the thumbnail images on the matrix image (column 4, lines 7-12 and column 8, lines 51-59); and,

means for sequentially displaying a plurality of images, said plurality of images corresponding to the selected thumbnail images (column 8, lines 51-59).

However, Chenal is silent about the specific details regarding the step of:

said radiographic images being taken at different points of time, said temporally processed images being produced by combining the radiographic images.

In the same field of endeavor (medical image), however, Marume disclose X-ray CT apparatus comprising the step of:

said radiographic images being taken at different points of time, said temporally processed images being produced by combining the radiographic images (column 5, lines 24-36 and column 6, lines 29-34).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use radiographic images being taken at different points of time as taught by Marume in the system of Chenal because Marume provides Chenal an improved system for performing X-ray computerized CT which enable the timing of starting a production CT to be determined correctly at all times. This system is good for performing a pre-CT which is a form of computerized tomography carried out with low doses beforehand in order to determine timing of starting a production CT which is a

form of CT for acquiring images for use in diagnosis such as an X-ray emitting device, an X-ray detecting device, revolving device, and a pre-control device for controlling the X-ray emitting device according to radiographic mode of the pre-CT.

Regarding claim 2, Chenal discloses an image display control system according to claim 1, wherein said sequentially displaying means displays, when the second thumbnail images are selected by the selecting means, the radiographic images which are original images of the temporally processed images corresponding to the selected thumbnail images (column 4, lines 7-20 and column 8, lines 51-59).

Regarding claim 3, Chenal discloses an image display control system according to claim 1, wherein said sequentially displaying means displays the plurality of images in an order, and the order is permitted to be freely set (column 6, lines 59-65).

Regarding claim 4, Chenal discloses an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising, when an area on the matrix image which corresponds to a temporally processed image that is not produced yet, is selected, means for automatically producing the temporally processed image corresponding to the selected area (column 7, lines 42-47 and column 8, lines 46-49).

Regarding claim 7, Chenal is silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising means for setting a diagnosis completion information to at least one of the radiographic image and the temporally processed image, said diagnosis completion information indicating that a diagnosis of the corresponding image is already completed.

In the same field of endeavor (medical image), however, Marume disclose X-ray CT apparatus comprising means for setting a diagnosis completion information to at least one of the radiographic image and the temporally processed image, said diagnosis completion information indicating that a diagnosis of the corresponding image is already completed (see abstract and column 5, lines 15-29).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use setting a diagnosis completion information as taught by Marume in the system of Chenal because Marume provides Chenal an improved system for performing X-ray computerized CT which enable the timing of starting a production CT to be determined correctly at all times. This system is good for performing a pre-CT which is a form of computerized tomography carried out with low doses beforehand in order to determine timing of starting a production CT which is a form of CT for acquiring images for use in diagnosis such as an X-ray emitting device, an X-ray detecting device, revolving device, and a pre-control device for controlling the X-ray emitting device according to radiographic mode of the pre-CT.

Regarding claim 10, Chenal is silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising means for storing thereon the temporally processed images and the radiographic images which are original images thereof while the temporally processed images and the radiographic images are related to each other.

In the same field of endeavor (medical image), however, Marume disclose X-ray CT apparatus comprising means for storing thereon the temporally processed images and

the radiographic images which are original images thereof while the temporally processed images and the radiographic images are related to each other (column 4, lines 55-65 and column 6, lines 12-16).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use storing thereon the temporally processed images and the radiographic images as taught by Marume in the system of Chenal because Marume provides Chenal an improved system for performing X-ray computerized CT which enable the timing of starting a production CT to be determined correctly at all times. This system is good for performing a pre-CT which is a form of computerized tomography carried out with low doses beforehand in order to determine timing of starting a production CT which is a form of CT for acquiring images for use in diagnosis such as an X-ray emitting device, an X-ray detecting device, revolving device, and a pre-control device for controlling the X-ray emitting device according to radiographic mode of the pre-CT.

Claims 11-14 are similarly analyzed as claim 1 above.

Claim 12 is similarly analyzed as claim 3 above.

3. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chenal et al (U S 6,447,454 B1) and Marume (U S 6,289,075 B1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Toda (U S 6,528,810 B1).

Regarding claim 5, Chenal and Marume are silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising means for setting protection information to at least one of the first and second thumbnail

images on the matrix image, said protection information indicating that the image of the thumbnail image to which the protection information is set is prevented from being deleted, said protection information setting means being permitted to release the set protection information on the matrix image.

In the same field of endeavor(medical image), however, Toda discloses image reading apparatus comprising means for setting protection information to at least one of the first and second thumbnail images on the matrix image, said protection information indicating that the image of the thumbnail image to which the protection information is set is prevented from being deleted, said protection information setting means being permitted to release the set protection information on the matrix image (column 4, lines 57-67 and column 11, lines 17-18).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use setting protection information as taught by Toda in the system of Chenal because Toda provides Chenal an improved system which makes it possible not to output images with an instruction for image output as a momentum with regard to image data wherein specific information is added to reservation data, and to observe images again in detail later by keeping these image in storing means, or to make the image data to be in storage until one person finishes reading plural images.

Regarding claim 6, Chenal and Marume are silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 5, wherein a state such that whether the protection information is set to the thumbnail image or released therefrom is permitted to be confirmed on the matrix image.

In the same field of endeavor(medical image), however, Marume disclose X-ray CT apparatus comprises a state such that whether the protection information is set to the thumbnail image or released therefrom is permitted to be confirmed on the matrix image (column 9, lines 25-37).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use image confirmation as taught by Toda in the system of Chenal because Toda provides Chenal an improved system which makes it possible not to output images with an instruction for image output as a momentum with regard to image data wherein specific information is added to reservation data, and to observe images again in detail later by keeping these image in storing means, or to make the image data to be in storage until one person finishes reading plural images.

4. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chenal et al (U S 6,447,454 B1) and Marume (U S 6,289,075 B1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Leong et al (U S 5,513,342).

Regarding claim 8, Chenal and Marume are silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising means for automatically adjusting a size of an window element according to a resolution of the screen, said window element being displayed on the screen.

In the same field of endeavor (display system), however, Leong disclose display window layout system that automatically accommodates changes in display resolution, font size. and national language comprising means for automatically adjusting a size of an window element according to a resolution of the screen, said window element being

displayed on the screen (column 2, lines 31-45; column 3, lines 64-67 and column 4, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use automatically adjusting a size of an window as taught by Leong in the system of Chenal because Leong provides Chenal an improved system for control of a graphical user interface that automatically adjusts window size to accommodate changes in font size, resolution and language.

Regarding claim 9, Chenal and Marume are silent about the specific details regarding an image display control system according to claim 1, further comprising means for automatically adjusting a layout in the screen according to an aspect ratio of the display unit.

In the same field of endeavor 9display system), however, Leong disclose display window layout system that automatically accommodates changes in display resolution, font size and national language comprising means for automatically adjusting a layout in the screen according to an aspect ratio of the display unit (column 2, lines 31-45).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use automatically adjusting a layout as taught by Leong in the system of Chenal because Leong provides Chenal an improved system for control of a graphical user interface that automatically adjusts window size to accommodate changes in font size, resolution and language.

Other prior art cited

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent

to Applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent (U S 6,447,453 B1) to Roundhill et al et al is cited for analysis of cardiac performance using ultrasonic diagnostic images.

U.S. Patent (U S 6,032,071) to Binder is cited for skin examination device.

U.S. Patent (U S 6,333,997 B1) to Englemann et al is cited for method and system for displaying medical images.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (703) 306-5917.
The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mehta Bhavesh M, can be reached at (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abolfazl Tabatabai

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2625

February 22, 2005

A-Tabatabai

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PRIMARY EXAMINER